

Remarks

Claims 1-34 are pending. Claims 1-34 stand rejected.

Claims 1-34 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over US Patent 5,600,648 (Furata) in view of US Patent 5,416,768 (Jahromi). The Office Action recites that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e. reserve the secondary overhead in the primary overhead when a section of second ring is disabled and the traffic of the secondary ring is routed over the primary ring) are not recited in the rejected claims. Applicants have amended claims 1, 11, 22, and 29 to include limitations that preserves the secondary overhead based on control information that indicate errors in the secondary SONET ring and transports the overhead and payload of the secondary communication signal over the primary SONET ring based on the control information. Thus, the adapter assembly receives control information that indicates an error such as when a section of the secondary ring is disabled and transports the traffic on the secondary SONET ring over the primary SONET ring without losing the secondary SONET ring's section overhead. Neither Furata, Jahromi, nor the combination of Furata and Jahromi teach or suggest receiving control information indicating errors in the second SONET ring and transporting the traffic on the secondary SONET ring over the primary SONET ring based on the control information without losing the secondary SONET ring's section overhead.

Additionally, applicants have fully considered the Examiner's argument for Furata inserting the STM-1 signal into the STM-4 signal and for Jahromi extracting the section and transport overhead from the STM-4 signal to form a STM-1 signal. However, col. 5, lines 21-24 in Furata teaches how administrative unit groups add the Regenerator Section Overhead (RSOH) and Multiplex Section Overhead (MSOH) at the interface 30b to their section overheads, which results in the previous section overheads being lost. Therefore, in Furata, secondary section overheads are eliminated by adding the RSOH and MSOH from the interface 30b. Also, in Jahromi, col. 5, lines 45-48 specifically teach generating new RSOH and terminating RSOH in the reverse direction. Col. 5, lines 49-53 in Jahromi also teach generating new MSOH and terminating the MSOH in the reverse direction. By generating new section overhead and terminating old

section overhead, Jahromi also does not teach or suggest the preservation of secondary section overhead. As stated before, amended claim 1 advantageously transports the traffic of the secondary SONET ring over the primary SONET ring when there are errors in the secondary SONET ring, while preserving secondary section overhead. Thus, claim 1 is allowable over Jahromi and Furata. Claims 2-34 are allowable for the same reasons as claim 1.

Please feel free to call me to discuss rejection or allowance of claims 1-34.



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